

CHARTER

Earth Science Metrics Planning and Reporting Working Group (MPAR WG)

March 17, 2004

Background

The SEEDS study effort included a study of how accountability would be achieved among the various ESE (Earth Science Enterprise) Data Service Providers (DSPs, or data activities). Regardless of the types of ESE data activities, NASA is responsible and accountable to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Congress, and taxpayers for the data activities' conduct and success and their contribution to the ESE's program success as a whole. In turn, each of the NASA-funded DSPs is responsible and accountable to NASA for its own success. The basic differences between the different kinds of activities imply differences in the manner in which the respective DSPs' accountability to NASA is ensured. NASA's responsibility accordingly includes ensuring that the work of the program is allocated to appropriate persons and groups, and that the work of these persons and groups is *appropriately* monitored and coordinated so that the collective results of all of the work fulfills the overall goals of the program.

Appropriateness here implies permitting the degree of autonomy to enable the DSPs to perform at their maximum potential, and yet ensuring that the DSPs' obligations to NASA are met. The key to ensuring accountability, especially in a highly distributed, heterogeneous environment, is to employ a set of metrics to measure progress and the degree to which a DSP organization is meeting its obligations, and to integrate such measures of individual accomplishments to measure and ensure ESE's overall success. The SEEDS study recommended that a MPAR Working Group be organized to review and recommend appropriate performance metrics, and tools for collecting and reporting the metrics.

Objective

The MPAR WG, chartered by the ESE, will provide reports and recommendations to the ESE concerning the collection and reporting of performance metrics. The scope of the MPAR WG activity will include the review and recommendation of performance metrics and supporting tools for Earth Science program-level metrics that measure how well the DSPs support ESE science, applications, education, and outreach programs. It is anticipated that the activities of the MPAR WG will be conducted on an ongoing basis.

The Earth Science Metrics Planning and Reporting Working Group will:

- a. Assist in development of performance metrics and, annually review, evaluate and recommend changes to the metrics list. The working group will look into the means of minimizing the impact of program metrics collection on DSPs. This may include exploring commonality among metrics to be reported by various DSPs and recommending / providing tools to assist in gathering, maintaining and reporting metrics.

- b. Review and recommend appropriate tools for Earth Science program level metrics collection.
- c. Review and recommend appropriate ‘outcome’ or ‘impact’ metrics, and other related classes of performance metrics that measure user satisfaction.
- d. Annually develop and adopt a working plan for MPAR WG core group and any subgroup activities that outline specific objectives, meeting schedules (including two, or more as required, meetings of the core group per year) and schedule for major reports.

Membership

The membership of the MPAR WG includes representatives from all of the types of ESE DSPs, including DAACs, SIPS, ESIPs, REASoNs, RESACs, etc., i.e. all DSPs within the scope of the Working Group, and representatives from the user community. The MPAR WG will include a core group of DSP representatives, supported by ad hoc DSP and user community subgroups, as required.

The MPAR WG will elect a WG Co-Chair and chairs for the subgroups. The Earth Science Enterprise will provide a representative to the MPAR WG who will serve as the MPAR WG Executive Secretary.

Changes to the Charter

Changes to this charter can be recommended by any MPAR WG member. All recommendations should be presented to the WG Chairs for consideration.